

CHAPTER 3.1.8.

INFECTION WITH *PERKINSUS MARINUS*

Article 3.1.8.1.

For the purposes of this *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Perkinsus marinus* means infection only with *Perkinsus marinus*.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 3.1.8.2.

Susceptible species

For the purposes of this *Aquatic Code*, known *susceptible species* for infection with *Perkinsus marinus* are: Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), Pacific oyster (*C. gigas*), Suminoe oyster (*C. ariakensis*), soft shell clam (*Mya arenaria*), Baltic clam (*Macoma balthica*) and hard clam (*Mercentaria mercenaria*).

Clinical manifestations and disease are mainly observed in *C. virginica*.

Suspect cases, as defined in the *Aquatic Manual*, of infection with *Perkinsus marinus* in species other than those listed in this Article should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.

Article 3.1.8.3.

Commodities

1. When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Competent Authorities* should not require any *Perkinsus marinus* related conditions, regardless of the *Perkinsus marinus* status of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*:
 - a) From the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2. for any purpose:
 - i) Commercially-sterile canned or other heat treated products;
 - b) The following products destined for human consumption from the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2. which have been prepared in such a way as to minimise the risk of diversion for alternative uses (a Member Country may wish to consider the need to introduce internal measures to prevent the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption):
 - i) Chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, etc ...);
 - ii) Non commercially-sterile heat treated products (e.g. ready prepared meals).
2. When authorising import or transit of the *commodities* of a species listed in Article 3.1.8.2., other than commodities listed in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3., *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 3.1.8.7. to 3.1.8.11. of this Chapter, relevant to the *Perkinsus marinus* status of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*.

3. When considering the import or transit of any other *commodity* from bivalve species not listed in Article 3.1.8.2. from an *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free of *Perkinsus marinus*, *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of *Perkinsus marinus*, and the potential consequences, associated with importation of the *commodity*, prior to a decision. The outcome of this assessment should be made available to the *exporting country*.

Article 3.1.8.4.

***Perkinsus marinus* free country**

A country may declare itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* if it meets the conditions in points 1), 2), 3) or 4) below.

If a country shares a *zone* or *compartment* with one or more other countries, it can only declare itself a *Perkinsus marinus* free country if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *Perkinsus marinus* free zones (see Article 3.1.8.5.).

1. A country where no species listed in Article 3.1.8.2. are present may declare itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. A country where the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter 3.1.8. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may declare itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 3 years and infection with *Perkinsus marinus* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may declare itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* when:

- a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 3 years; and
- b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus marinus*.

OR

4. A country that had declared itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* but in which the disease is detected may not declare itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and

b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and

c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus marinus*.

In the meantime, other areas of the remaining *territory* may be declared one or more free zones, provided that they meet the conditions in point 4) of Article 3.1.8.5.

Article 3.1.8.5.

***Perkinsus marinus* free zone or free compartment**

A *zone* or *compartment* free from *Perkinsus marinus* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *Perkinsus marinus* and declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned, if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1), 2), 3) or 4) below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *Perkinsus marinus* free *zone* or *compartment* if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the *zone* or *compartment*.

1. A country where no species listed in Article 3.1.8.2. are present may declare itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for *Perkinsus marinus*, a *zone* or *compartment* where the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may declare itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 3 years and infection with *Perkinsus marinus* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A *zone* or *compartment* where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may declare itself free from *Perkinsus marinus* when:

- a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 3 years; and
- b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus marinus*.

OR

4. A *zone* previously declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* but in which the disease is detected may not be declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus marinus*.

Article 3.1.8.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country or *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* following the provisions of points 1) or 2) of Articles 3.1.8.4. or 3.1.8.5., respectively, may maintain its status as *Perkinsus marinus* free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country or *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* following the provisions of point 3) of Articles 3.1.8.4. or 3.1.8.5., respectively, may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as *Perkinsus marinus* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Perkinsus marinus*, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Perkinsus marinus*, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of reinfection.

Article 3.1.8.7.

Importation of live animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*

When importing live *aquatic animals* of the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2., other than *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 3.1.8.4. or 3.1.8.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*.

The certificate shall be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.1..

Importation of live animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*

When importing for *aquaculture*, *aquatic animals* of the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2., other than those *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

1. the consignment is delivered directly into and held in *quarantine* facilities; and
2. the imported *aquatic animals* are continuously isolated from the local environment; and
3. all effluent and waste material are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus marinus*.

Article 3.1.8.9.

Importation of live animals for processing and/or human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*

When importing, for processing and/or human consumption, *aquatic animals* of the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2., other than any live *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities until processing and/or consumption; and
2. all effluent and waste material are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus marinus*.

Article 3.1.8.10.

Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment free from *Perkinsus marinus*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2., other than *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 3.1.8.4. or 3.1.8.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*.

The certificate shall be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.2..

Article 3.1.8.11.

Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species listed in Article 3.1.8.2., other than those *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures such as:

- a) the consignment is delivered directly to and held in biosecure/quarantine facilities for processing to one of the products listed in paragraph 1 of Article 3.1.8.3. or other products authorised by the competent authority; and
 - b) all effluent and waste material are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus marinus*.
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